

'Like a friend dropping in'



# The Elmswell Newsletter

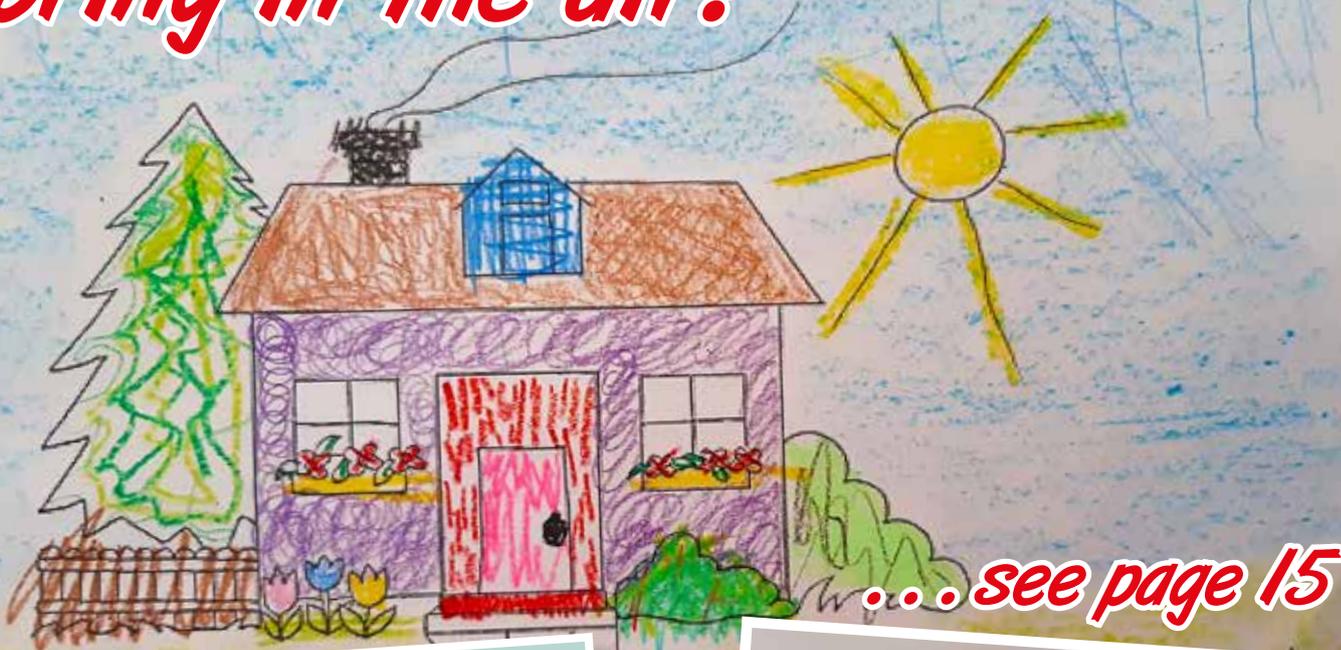


More than thirty years of Parish Record... all the Community News...

APRIL 2022

On line at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](https://elmswell.suffolk.cloud)

## Spring in the air?



... see page 15

**Easter Weekend at ELMSWELL TAVERN**  
*School Road, Elmswell, IP30 7EE. Open 7 days a week*

**Good Friday**  
 Family afternoon = 3-6pm  
 Come along with the family to enjoy an afternoon of Easter fun and activities. Follow us on Facebook to see more details.

**Easter Saturday**  
 Elmswell Ukulele Band = 7pm  
 Come along to the inaugural appearance of our popular Elmswell Ukulele band from 7pm. FREE entry, participation encouraged!

**QUIZ night** 7pm Easter Sunday @ the Tavern  
 Includes Fish & Chip supper and a FREE pint  
 £10 per person  
 Kindly sponsored by Elmswell Fish & Chip Shop and Grease King

Teams of up to 6 people  
 Limited to 60 people, therefore buy your tickets in advance from behind the bar  
 Tavern open from noon - quiz starts at 7pm  
 50% of ticket price to go to the Ukraine Crisis



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**Our editorial is designed to inform and to encourage debate. If you wish to comment, please do so via the office or by email at; eaa.elmswell.org.uk We reserve the right to edit any such contributions that we may use in a subsequent edition.**

**As we emerge, encouraged by our cover picture, into the sunlit uplands of another Spring, there is a heartfelt feeling abroad that we can ditch the last 2 years of regulation and re-assume personal responsibility in matters such as hand washing, mask wearing and partying.**

Of course, there still have to be rules. They keep us, generally, on the left-hand side of the road and control the sort of circumstances whereby someone can call themselves a gas engineer. Jolly good schemes both. Then there is the less prescriptive advice published as 'guidance'. Our recent lockdown labyrinth of do's and don'ts, of helpful hints and nudges yields a wealth of examples. The need is clear, the extent of that need less so, and a few examples serve to encourage and enlighten debate, dare it be suggested, ready for next time.



Spring means Easter. Amongst other, possibly more significant, things, Easter means Creme Eggs. They precede hot

cross buns at the top of the slippery slope to Summer. However, they are not very good for us. They're not nutritious, they're high in sugar, and a diet made up entirely of Creme Eggs would put you in very poor shape. Just the odd one, then? To burn off the 150 calories thus stickily ingested would take 13 minutes of swimming, a 17 minute jog, 23 minute bike ride or require you to join the village footpath walk for at least ¾ of an hour. Oxford University tell us that supermarkets who don't put the creme eggs next to the till sell fewer creme eggs. For the sake of the NHS, should there be a rule?



Grown-up rules are known as laws. One such is the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991 prohibiting or restricting certain types

of dogs and creating the criminal offence of allowing a dog of any breed to be dangerously out of control. This has not prevented tragedies such as recently in St Helens where a 17-month-old toddler was savaged to death by a pit bull terrier. It takes a forensic examination of the dog to verify its breed as being within or outside the peculiar parameters set by this law. It is easier to conclude that there needs to be far more comprehensive and thought-through rules on dog ownership which allows animals bred to kill and to maim being allowed anywhere. Perhaps we could take a step back and register all dogs to discourage irresponsible ownership and fund better regulation – we could call it a 'Dog Licence'? To those who suggest this is nanny-state over-reaction, it could be pointed out that the PDSA figures of 1,700 incidents of serious injury caused by dogs last year include 37 babies, 603 1-4-year olds and 538 children aged 5-9.



The rather dubious suggestion that, 'rules are there to be broken', is heartily adopted, it might seem when it comes to

'Planning' – the regulations which shape our built environment. There is no doubt that, with friends in high places, the developers have the upper hand. Hence Elmswell's new-homes tally of 800+ over the past 10 years and rising, with the suggestion that our 'overflow' children are bussed to a new school in Woolpit. Hence the joy when, spearheaded by the Parish Council, the Permission for 86 houses off School Road was given on a strict understanding. The works to make safer the very dangerous junction where School Road meets Church road at the almshouses must be completed before any houses were built. No houses until the road is safer. A hard-fought sliver of common sense - which was negated when the enforcing documentation was published requiring that the junction need only be made safer before the 43rd house is occupied. Lots of scope for backsliding here. No doubt this is being vigorously fought. Little doubt that the developer wins. Stronger rules needed?



Big rules are sometimes called treaties. One such in the spotlight at the moment has the unfortunate acronym, 'MAD' – Mutually Assured destruction. This cheerfully established, in the 1960's, rules and regulations which meant that Russia and The West would balance their stocks of nuclear weapons so that if one side decided to use them, the other side has sufficient to retaliate. We are assured that, if we are wiped out, so are the other side. Plus, given the nature of this weaponry, is everyone else. The thinking is that if pressing a button means the end of the world, then no-one will press that button. There is a fairly basic assumption here, of which the MAD label

rather worryingly reminds us. The fingers on the respective buttons must belong to sane people. Against the current backdrop of world affairs this rule deserves re-visiting, perhaps?

From the anarchists who insist that there should be no rules and then fall into the trap of making this a rule, to the bureaucrats whose lives and efforts shape and are shaped by rules - devoted to process rather than progress - there seems to be an inevitability that our complex lives need more and more regulation – excepting, for the sake of our reader's blood pressure, the joy that is VAR.

From hormone levels in athletes to our recent new Highway Code fresh off the press, although a printed version is not yet available. To the rules on employing crews on P&O Ferries which echo the Titanic disaster when the pay of all employees on board was stopped 'at the moment of their demise'. Whilst Debrett's celebrated guide on etiquette and behaviour now has a chapter on 'Working from home in a coffee shop' (don't try video conferencing) less salubrious advisers counsel against eating yellow snow. We are, in Her Majesty's Jubilee Year, well and truly ruled





## ELMSWELL ART CLUB

Suffolk is a really lovely place to live, work and retire. Many celebrities, performers, musicians, actors and broadcasters have chosen Suffolk as the place to lay down their roots. I guess it's the clean air, open skies, attractive surroundings and of course, the friendly people! Many artists chose Suffolk as their home and workplace, as mentioned in an earlier edition of the newsletter, such as the Freud brothers, Clement and Lucian. Suffolk is also the birthplace of so many of Britain's most noted and famous artists from the past. Our 'home bred' artists feature strongly in a Who's Who's Guide of the greatest names in British landscape artists and portraitists, such as Constable, Gainsborough, Munnings and Maggi Hambling.

Gainsborough was born in 1727 in Sudbury into a magnificently artistic and inventive family. Thomas had two older brothers, Humphrey who created a method of condensing steam into a separate vessel, which proved so valuable for James Watt when he designed the Watt Steam Engine, while John, nicknamed Scheming John had a passion for inventing curiosities. Thomas always was passionate about drawing and painting and at the ripe old age of 13 persuaded his father to allow him to study landscape and portraiture in London under such luminaries as the engraver, Hubert Gravelot and painter and illustrator, William Hogarth. On his return from London to Sudbury, he married the illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Beaufort and they had two daughters. Not overly successful with his portraiture work



he moved to Ipswich where his fortunes improved. After that he moved into one of the most delightful properties, the Circus, that fabulous and much photographed crescent of houses in Bath. High demand by many of the fashionable ladies and gentlemen of West Country society kept him busy. Gainsborough and his family moved eventually to Pall Mall in London. He became the favourite painter of King George III and Queen Charlotte. He was equally good at landscape painting and portraiture and combined the two themes by doing a portrait with a landscape background. He died of cancer in 1788 and is buried near Kew Gardens. Gainsborough's birthplace has now been converted to a

gallery and museum open to the public. Well worth a visit, but check opening times. It is only a bus ride away!

Our paintings are completely different to anything that Gainsborough ever did. The picture of the continental building was painted by Bobbie Fisk and is a copy of a picture sent to her by her sister. The quayside scene is in the style of postcards and was imagined by Peter Hatton.

**ELMSWELL ART CLUB MEETS  
EVERY TUESDAY  
FROM 9 to 12 NOON  
AT THE WESLEY.**

*John Welford - 01359 240166*



**We love a genius for what he leaves and mourn him for what he takes away.**

*Thomas Gainsborough*

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## CLUBS & SOCIETIES



### ELMSWELL EXCHANGE AFTERNOON WI

**Another full house for our March meeting plus two guests.** It is our financial year end in April and we will be assessing our numbers balanced against the change in Covid 19 restrictions. We have ladies waiting to join us and it is our hope that we can dispense with our restriction on numbers for the spring and summer.



**Our speaker today was our old friend Chris Parfitt.** He gave us an illustrated talk on Chile (apparently pronounced Chilay) the long thin country, 2,500 miles long and at it's widest 100

miles. His photography was superb, as always. The volcano on the right is Osorne on the Lake of All Saints and the icebergs and glacier below are on Lake Gray. We went from the Atacama desert which is the driest place in the world. It was very stoney not sandy. We moved along the coast to a more irrigated landscape, through a beautiful area called the Lakes and then into increasingly colder, harsher territory heading closer to the Antarctic. Once you reach the furthest point in the south of the country there is only the Antarctic in front of you. The fauna was very different with Vicunas which are



camelids but have very valuable wool fleeces. We also saw good photos of Guanacos and the wonderful Magellan penguins. A thoroughly interesting trip.



**Next month we have a treat.** Our guest is Lindsey Barrell (also known as Ms. Cherry Bombe) This will be a highly entertaining afternoon which Lindsey calls "How the W.I. and Burlesque Changed My Life" The competition is a decorated bra and members were asked to pull out all the stops !!!!! We can't wait to see the results. We will be taking photographs.

**If you are interested in our W.I. or have any queries don't hesitate to contact me on 241033, Mary on 245022 or Carol on 242884.**

### ELMSWELL EVENING WI

After Terry had welcomed everyone, she introduced our speaker, Steve Ruthen, from Greene King Brewery. (He very kindly stepped in at the last minute, to replace Alan Seager, who was to speak about bee-keeping. Sadly, he has passed away and we have sent condolences to his wife.)

Steve proceeded to tell us about the origins and history of the brewery and how it has influenced the development of Bury St. Edmunds. Benjamin Greene founded Greene's Brewery at the end of the eighteenth century, when he was only nineteen years old and had just finished his apprenticeship with Whitbread in London. At the time, there were about sixty micro-breweries in the town, which were mainly situated in sheds. There were no regulations and practically anything could be included in the beer, even opium! Benjamin was able

to start his business, because he impressed a local Quaker business man, who was a wealthy wool merchant. He bought the brewery, which is still on the same site, and after over two years refurbishment, he began producing high quality beer, which was far more popular than most of the existing ones in the town.

In 1818, the Theatre Royal was built and Ben Greene bought shares in it. He also built the house next to it, which is still there today. As he became more and more successful, he bought up other businesses and acquired sugar plantations in St. Kitts. This was unpopular, because of the anti-slavery lobby becoming much stronger.

In 1887, the Kings joined the Greens and the business remained in the family, until the 1970s, when it was bought by a Chinese company. Greene King has always

been successful, because of its ethos. The workers have always been respected and treated very well.

Two famous members of the family are Graham Greene, the novelist and Hugh Carlton Greene, who was Director General of the B.B.C. in the 1960s.

During the meeting, we were able to collect our fired and glazed clay pots, which we had made in February.

Next month we shall hold our A.G.M.. There will be Prosecco and a quiz.

*Rosie Collins.*  
01359 241652



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## CLUBS & SOCIETIES



### ELMSWELL OVER 55'S CLUB

Our March report was omitted from the newsletter due to the fact that the deadline published in several previous issues of the newsletter was incorrect so on that basis we missed the correct deadline !!

At our meeting on March 10th about 40 members sat down to a Fish & Chip supper which was delivered to the hall from Rumbles at Badwell Ash followed by tea and fancy cakes.

We also welcomed "Mary" a student at Thurston Community College who is doing her Duke of Edinburgh award which involves helping in her local community so she will be at each meeting to lend a hand etc.

The meeting on March 24th was a return visit by the "Old Codgers" who kept everybody entertained with their music and laughter for the evening.

Our next meeting scheduled for April 7th will be an evening of Cash Bingo then on April 21st we have entertainment by "Him and Her".

Our first meeting in May is on Thursday 5th which will be our AGM followed by a short Bingo session.

Then on Thursday May 19th we also welcome back "Fever Pitch" by popular demand.

All our meetings which feature entertainment are classed as Open Evenings when non members will be warmly welcomed.

Grant (240943)



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# CLUBS & SOCIETIES



## ELMSWELL GARDEN CLUB

Our talk in March was given by Jim Paine from Walnut Tree Nursery and the topic was 'Gardening in the shade'.

It was a fascinating talk giving far more information than a basic list of suitable plants. Jim explained, with illustrations of the Earth's movements around the Sun, how the angle of the Earth affects the intensity of light at different times of the year, differences in our seasons and most importantly how this impacts plant growth.

He described how some plants make the most of early spring when many trees are yet to grow their leaves - the ephemeral spring show. He then spoke about growth response in plants some of which grow

**If you require further information about Elmswell Garden Club (EGC), please contact Catherine on 01359 242172 or Nick on 01359 242601.**

**The club email is [elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com) and is a good way to to ask any questions you might have.**

huge leaves in order to capture sufficient light in shady areas.

Finally he discussed how we can help plants living in dry shade to tolerate and even thrive in these conditions.

It was altogether a really fascinating evening.

For those who didn't know, Jim mentioned that Suffolk Wildlife Trust sometimes has plant sales and recommended looking on their website for more information.

Our speaker on April 19th is Chris Reeve who will be talking about 'A gardeners year at Helmingham'. It is sure to be a really fascinating evening.



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## ELMSWELL HISTORY GROUP

In March we were delighted to be back in the Wesley Hall where Rev Jenny Seggar gave us a detailed and well-presented talk on burial practices through the ages, from Anglo-Saxon to Victorian. Her enthusiasm and knowledge about her subject was obvious from beginning to end of the evening. Having lived and worked in the local area for several years as a Suffolk vicar in various parishes, her talk included the way burials were marked by the inclusion of grave goods such as jewellery and pottery; the position of the body when placed in the grave was also important. The Sutton Hoo ship burial site is a wonderful example of the valuable items which were interred with the body, including the iconic helmet. Some of the local churchyards mentioned and illustrated were Baylham, Bramford, Woolverstone, and Wherstead, where early burials have been discovered. Evidence of body snatching can be seen in some churchyards, where iron 'cages' are used to protect the interred body from being snatched and sold for use in hospitals for medical research. Her talk included some fascinating insights and anecdotes – for instance, people of higher status and wealth (such as landowners, lords of the manor, senior military figures, etc.) were buried inside the local church and, because they were often not buried very deeply, a certain aroma soon emanated from such burials, giving rise to the expression “the stinking rich”! Finally, Jenny answered several questions, as well as showing us some copies of pottery bowls and pitchers which would have been interred with the body. The evening was most enjoyable and informative.



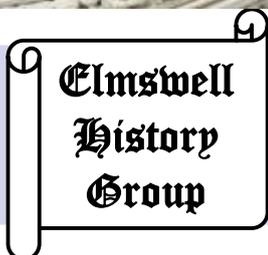
**FREE Exhibition at Bury St Edmunds Guildhall,** until Sunday 10th April – There's still time to catch this "Ration Books to Rock 'n' Roll" Exhibition when you can explore a top-secret

**RATION BOOKS TO**  
*Rock 'n' Roll*

26<sup>th</sup> MARCH - 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

room and discover the incredible hidden history of real local heroes. The exhibition shines a spotlight on the Guildhall's one-of-a-kind Royal Observer Corps (ROC) operations room and the extraordinary people from all walks of life who worked there. The ROC was a civil defence organisation which played a crucial role during WW2's Battle of Britain, acting as the RAF's eyes and ears. Of the 40 ops rooms across the UK, the Guildhall's is now the only one remaining in the country – a totally unique national treasure, right in the heart of Bury.

Our next talk is at **7.30pm on Thursday 14th April**, at the **Wesley Hall** (School Rd, IP30 9EE), when we welcome Claire Gapper to tell us about "Decorative Plasterwork in Elizabethan & Jacobean Suffolk". This is a centuries-old technique in which a durable plaster is used to sculpt decorative elements directly onto an interior or exterior wall or surface, and Claire is a renowned expert on this subject, having researched and written extensively about it. Most of the standard works on the history of decorative plasterwork in this country date from the early 20th century, but much new material relating to the architectural history of the 16th century has been uncovered since they were written, so do join us to learn more.



For further information about our History Group, please visit our website – [www.elmswell-history.org.uk](http://www.elmswell-history.org.uk) or contact our Secretary, Stella Chamberlin on 01359-242601



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### **BLACKBOURNE RINGS OUT!**

On Saturday 19th March, bells rang out at the Blackbourne Community Centre. For their first post-Covid meeting of 2022, the East Anglia Region of Handbell Ringers of Great Britain held their AGM in Elmswell. Over 100 handbell ringers from 15 teams from across East Anglia assembled for the AGM followed by the ringing of tunes old and new on tuned musical handbells. The bells range in size from weighing a few grams to up to 10kg. As well as each team performing their own 'party piece' all the ringers combined to ring three pieces specially arranged and composed for handbells. And in support of the struggles of the Ukrainian nation, two of the pieces were based on Ukrainian themes. A good time was had by all!



Music played on handbells is a unique sound. The dexterity of the ringers and the concentration needed make this exciting to watch as well as to play, and you don't need to be able to read music to take part. If you'd like to know more, contact Susan Duke at [susanjduke@aol.com](mailto:susanjduke@aol.com)

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# Easter Weekend at ELMSWELL TAVERN

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## Good Friday

Family afternoon ≡ 3-6pm ≡

Come along with the family to enjoy an afternoon of Easter fun and activities.

Follow us on Facebook to see more details

## Easter Saturday

Elmswell Ukulele Band ≡ 7pm ≡

Come along to the inaugural appearance of our popular Elmswell Ukulele band from 7pm.

FREE entry, participation encouraged!

## QUIZ night

7pm Easter Sunday  
@ the Tavern

Includes Fish & Chip supper  
and a FREE pint

£10  
per person

Kindly sponsored by  
Elmswell Fish & Chip Shop and Greene King

Teams of up to 6 people  
Limited to 60 people, therefore buy your tickets in  
advance from behind the bar

Tavern open from noon - quiz starts at 7pm

50% of ticket price to go to  
the Ukraine Crisis



## STOWMARKET LIBRARY'S SKULDUGGERY TEAM IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THE LIVE EVENT

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[www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/skulduggery](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/skulduggery)

Join us at Stowmarket Library on Friday 22nd for an evening with Simon Brett. Tickets are £8 each or £15 for two, including a glass of wine on arrival and light refreshments.

On Saturday 23rd come & meet our guest authors: Rebecca Tope; Imran Mahmood, Tim Weaver, Ruth Dugdall, & Jill Dawson; and on Sunday 24th we will have guest authors J M Hewitt, Laura Purcell, Jim Kelly, Louise Millar, and Rory Clements. Tickets are £5 per author, £20 for a full day, or £35 for both days.



Author interview with Ruth  
Dugdall

Sat 23 Apr 2022, 13:30 • Stowmarket Library  
• £5 per person



One of six car loads off to be loaded onto lorries to aid Ukraine refugees

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

*God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
Psalm 46:1*

Hello and welcome from St John's :)

Recent weeks have once again seen the extremes of humanity. We have seen the most depraved evil as Vladimir Putin has waged war and caused a wave of death, destruction and untold suffering in Ukraine. And yet we have also, at the same time, seen so much good come out of this – a united Europe stepping up to assist those in need. At St John's we were deeply moved at the generosity of donations for Ukraine. We have sent off six large car loads of aid to be loaded onto lorries bound for Eastern Europe. Sadly, we are no longer able to accept donations, but thank you for such an outpouring of love.

*One of six car loads off to be loaded onto lorries to aid Ukraine refugees*

As we head into April, I am struck by the similarity to the first Easter weekend. On Good Friday, we see the evil of humanity as it rejects, flogs and crucifies its maker and we see a response of love as Jesus opens his arms on the cross and declares that he is dying to put an end to the depths of the depravity we are capable of. As he dies on the cross for the sin of the world, he offers forgiveness to all who will turn to him in faith. The risen Jesus leads us to live changed lives, lives that seek love, peace and reconciliation. Do please join us this Easter - details of our events are below. In particular, please note the Good Friday service will be outside on the Green (by the level crossing).

March was another month in which we continued to return to normal. We kicked off with a moving service on Ash Wednesday, with the imposition of ashes. Our all age service on 6 March was well attended and the children, in particular, enjoyed hearing the story of the

Good Samaritan and how we should love and do good to our neighbours, even when they are classed as enemies. We also welcomed Margaret Rugira on 20 March, back home for a while from her missionary work in Japan, and we enjoyed a bring and share lunch with her afterwards.

If you are new to Elmswell, please do come along on a Sunday morning to join in our worship and to get to know lots of friendly people over tea and coffee afterwards.

### Upcoming Dates:

**Sun 3 Apr 9:00am**  
Lord's Supper (spoken service)

**Sun 3 Apr 10:30am**  
All Age Service

Sun 10 Apr 10:30am  
Worship and Communion

**Thu 14 Apr 7:30pm**  
Maundy Thursday Service

**Fri 15 Apr 10:30am**  
Good Friday on the Green (by level crossing)

**Sun 17 Apr 10:30am**  
Easter Sunday celebration

**Sun 24 Apr 10:30am**  
Worship with Annual Church Meetings

**Sun 1 May 9:00am**  
Lord's Supper (spoken service)

**Sun 1 May 10:30am**  
All Age Service

### Every Saturday:

9:00am Weekly prayer meeting online (see website for details)

We hope to also live stream most of the Sunday services on our Facebook page (also available on our main web site later that day). Finally, our Sunday School continues to meet on Zoom

at 9:30am most weeks. Please get in touch with us if you would like your children to be part of it.

Rector: Peter Goodridge

Email: [elmswellrector@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellrector@gmail.com)

Tel: 01359 240512

Web site: [www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk](http://www.stjohnselmswell.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnselmswell)

YouTube: accessed via our website home page



## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

Everyone is welcome to sponsor the floodlighting of St. John's, a lovely way to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively, you can simply make a donation. And it all helps to pay the day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

During April the lights will be on between 7.30 p.m. and midnight.

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

Cheques payable please to "ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ELMSWELL".

All bookings and payments please to :- Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank You.

### APRIL 2022 SPONSORSHIPS

- 3 to remember and thank all those Elmswell Fire-Fighters who have served their village and community so well.
- 9 remembering Grace Rush, a dear Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma, on her Birthday.
- 14 remembering Carl Finch on the anniversary of his death in 1999.
- 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
- 17 Jane Goodchild. "In loving memory". Love, Colin. xx.
- 20 in memory of Jim Baker (1933 - 2009) on his Birthday.
- 22 in loving memory of Teasel, always in my thoughts.
- 23 remembering Carl Finch on St. George's Day.
- 30 in memory of David Lakey.



## CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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The Presbytery, 29 Lockington Road,  
Stowmarket, IP14 1BQ

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ourladystowmarket.org.uk

### MASS TIMES:

Saturday (First Mass of Sunday) – 6PM  
St Mary's C of E Church, Woolpit IP30 9QG

Sundays – 8.30am & 10.15am  
Our Lady's, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket  
IP14 1AW

Holy Days – 10am & 7.30pm  
Our Lady's Strickland Road Stowmarket

Weekday services in the Parish are  
advertised at the

front of Our Lady's Church, in the weekly  
Newsletter and on

the Parish Website –  
[www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)



## ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Easter, the most important time in the Christian calendar, is upon us once again. What does it mean to you? Chocolate eggs, flowers, bunnies and hot-cross buns? Why hot-cross buns? Our supermarkets have taken to selling these all year round, my grandfather and uncle were bakers, certainly in my granddad's day, he only baked hot-cross buns on Good Friday, opening early on Good Friday for just an hour or two to sell hot-cross buns that were still warm from coming out of the oven. The buns of course have a cross on them to remind us that Jesus died on a cross on Good Friday to pay the price for all our wrongdoing and to provide the way for us to have a personal relationship with him and God the Father. But, praise be!, the cross was not the end because three days later Jesus rose from the dead, conquering death and opening the way for all those who confess him as Saviour and seek to serve him as Lord to spend eternity in his presence. This is why we only have an empty cross in our church. At the moment Jesus died, the veil that separated the high altar from all but the high priest was torn from top to bottom to symbolise the tearing down of any barriers between us and God, meaning that we don't need any priest to speak on our behalf, Jesus the great High Priest is at the right hand of God to intercede for us. If you'd like to know more why not join us on Good Friday on Crown Mill and or Easter Sunday in the chapel.

The **Ladies Friendship Group** meet on Monday April 4th at 2pm in the Blackbourne Car Park when Gareth Brenland is bringing one of the buses from the Bus Shelter project in Ipswich. ALL ladies are welcome. Phone Margaret on 01359 241541 for more details.

**Food 'n' Friends** meet at Middy on April 7th (note this is a week earlier than normal) for a hot meal for a modest donation and plenty of time to chat. ALL Senior Citizens are welcome, contact Jackie on 01359 245918 for more info.

On **Good Friday** April 15th at 10.00am, Christians Together in Elmswell are holding a service at Crown Mill (near the level crossing), do come and join us for a short act of worship.

We are grateful to all those who come to preach each week. Our preachers at our 10.30am services in the coming weeks are as follows:-

- April 3rd Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)
- April 10th DIY Palm Sunday All-Age Café Service
- April 17th Rev. Norman Tharby – Easter Sunday
- April 24th Rev. Richard Edwards
- May 1st Rev. Norman Tharby (inc Communion)

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to participate in any of the above events.

You can't currently visit our website as we are presently trying to rescue it, email [cockant2@btinternet.com](mailto:cockant2@btinternet.com) text or call 07784 095225 or telephone 01359 241541 to get in touch.



May you come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour and therefore have a truly Happy Easter!

Tony

### Does anyone in your family need help coping with the challenges of living at home with long term health conditions?

#### Did you know grants are available?

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#### For more information

Email: [adaptations@babergmidssuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:adaptations@babergmidssuffolk.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.ils-bms.org](http://www.ils-bms.org)

or call: 0300 1234000 - Option 3

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"Your diligence, patience and constant shepherding of the multiple parties involved has seen the matter through to its positive conclusion."

"From start to finish you kept us informed on everything, making the whole experience stress-free."

"I recommend their services as you are treated more as an individual human being and not a number."

"Dealing with Simon was a comfort during what was a daunting process."

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**Desirable homes in a sought-after location**

We're talking about new homes for the birds here, and they're going up in Lukeswood! Five new nest boxes, all hand-made by the Elmswell Scouts, have been put up in the woodland, ready for the new nesting season. The Scouts' task was to make nest boxes using as far as possible recycled or upcycled materials and they certainly rose to the challenge. The end result – an array of colourful and ingenious boxes which are now securely fastened to the trees, waiting for new occupants.



Lukeswood is a great habitat for our local bird population, providing a variety of insects, seeds and berries as well as safe places to forage. There are dense thickets of scrub and bramble which are perfect for birds that like to build their nests on or close to the ground. One such is the chiffchaff, newly arrived from Africa and now singing its heart out in the tree canopy. It's one of the easiest birds to identify by song as it shouts its own name – chiff chaff, chiff chaff.

Because our trees are still quite young and haven't yet developed many nooks and crannies, the woodland doesn't offer many nesting opportunities for the birds that like to nest in tree holes, such as blue tit and great tit. That's where the nest boxes come in, providing tailor-made cavities just right for raising a brood of chicks.

A big thank you to the Scouts and their leaders – we hope you'll come back soon to Lukeswood to see who has moved in!

**Can you help?**

We're always looking for new volunteers to join us in our work looking after the various sites that we maintain in the village – Lukeswood, Kiln Meadow, the Memorial Garden, and now Town Field. Just recently we have been very pleased to welcome three new recruits – Jane, Janet and Hugh. Our photo shows Jane and Janet hard at work planting trees at Lukeswood. They look like they're having a good time, don't



they? We normally meet every Tuesday morning, 9.30 to 12.30, and we always have a coffee break – with cake, of course! We also have occasional work parties on a Saturday afternoon, which may suit people who are working during the week. If you would like to come and join us, please do get in touch. It's always interesting and varied and we have a lot of fun, too!

**Plastic patrol – Saturday 9 April 1.30-4.30 at Lukeswood**

Our next Saturday work party is on April 9th, when we'll be removing tree guards at Lukeswood. This is part of our on-going challenge to make our woodland plastic free. All the trees we've planted over the years have been protected from deer and rabbits with plastic guards, but now they have to come off! If they're not removed they can harm the tree and eventually break up into small pieces that remain in the soil or are washed into streams and other water courses. We want our woodland to be free of plastic and as natural as possible, so this is an essential task. If you can spare an hour or two, please come and join us – everyone is very welcome. Suitable clothing – long sleeves and trousers protect against nettles and brambles – stout footwear and gloves are a must. Also a flask and/or cold drink – it's thirsty work!

Mary Feeney  
info@elmswild.org.uk



# THE ELMSWELL ARCHIVE



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Bury St. Edmund's.

**WANTED**, any quantity of Hare, Mole, and Rabbit Skins, Horsehair, Old Rags, Iron, Bottles, etc.—Apply to **R. Hartley and Sons, 35, Long Brackland, and Skinner Street, Bury St. Edmund's.** N.B.—No agents kept.

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The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Their use will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARITAL STATUS	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged 16 years and upwards
William George	Head	34	Married	Registered Horse Butcher
Ann Dore George	Wife	33	Married	Employed
Marg. Elizabeth George	Daughter	10	Single	At School
Christina George	Daughter	8	Single	At School
Agnes Margaret George	Daughter	6	Single	At School
William Elizabeth Knight	Servant	14	Single	At School
William Bailey	Servant	14	Single	At School

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Their use will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

The wealth of material being gathered in the Archive can be linked to create a fuller picture.

Here we see a photograph, which is undated, of William George, a registered horse slaughterer, with his workmen. The Kelly's Directory in the Archive tells us that he lived at Willow Farm on Ashfield Road, farming more than 150 acres. The advertisement from the Bury Free Press of 16th May 1925 confirmed his willingness to

buy all horses for dispatch in his 'up-to-date' Elmswell abattoir for export to his Antwerp butchery. The 1911 Census entry shows a family with children aged 6,8 and 10 and that William was born in Bacton, his wife in Stratford St Mary.

There is more on file – including a Press report of a 'Puzzling Case' where William George sued Albert Howe for £5. 12s 6d – the price of 300 bran bags.

The Archive is a safe and secure repository for Elmswell history, but it is in need of much sorting, categorising and filing for easy retrieval and cross-referencing in the future.

If you would like to be involved, do be in touch with the Parish Clerk's Office – clerk@elmwell.suffolk.gov.uk





Ashleigh and Kate – careful not to go over the lions..



Archie

Wesley has surpassed all expectations in terms of the 'community hub' opportunities it has made available. People gather to knit & natter, to discuss books, play board games, read the paper or just sit with a scone and a drink while the world passes gently by. The ukulele group spend an

afternoon each week gently justifying their 'Fab' label and more than a dozen groups regularly gather more formally to dance or stretch or listen – and afterwards wind down in the coffee shop.

Over half term, dozens of customers took the opportunity to enter a

colouring competition organised by Charlotte and the staff team. Hours of controlled scribbling produced some excellent results and prizes were won! Success means that it will be repeated over the summer – open to all, including grown-ups accompanied or otherwise.

Some of the many entries on display



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## ELMSWELL LIBRARY

Hello Elmswell,

The Elmswell Friends Group are holding their AGM on Wednesday 27th April at 5.30pm.

Over the last year ELF have:

Hosted an author event

Organised a South African Wine Evening  
Purchase a selection of board games (see below for more information)

Purchased Christmas/Yule/Winter display children's books

Part funded and volunteered expertise and time to create the exhibition space  
Successfully applied to Mid Suffolk District Councillor Sarah Mansel for a projector through the locality award funding

Offering sunflower seeds for those who want to have a go at growing them and for the more competitive seeing who can grow the best (see below for more information)

If you would like to help ELF continue their much-appreciated support of Elmswell Library, please come along to the AGM or ask in the library for more information.

This year ELF are teaming up with Claire Sowden and Jen Tooke-Marchant to extend the Whatley Close Sunflower Competition to include a wider area and all library customers. Packets of sunflower seeds will be available at the library and

you'll be able to share how well your sunflowers are growing. The seeds will be available at the library from Tuesday 12th April.

We now have Uno, Codenames, Skull and Welcome to Las Vegas to borrow from the library for 50p per week or to play for free in the library. If it is successful we will look at getting more games. Uno is a card game where you have to try and get rid of all your cards, Codenames is a game where players give clues and their team mates have to guess which words the clues relate to, Skull is a game of bluff and Welcome to Las Vegas is a strategy game where you build up glitzy streets and try not to run out of room and money.

The display this month will be picture books where the focus is on the illustrations rather than the words. Sometimes even the simplest stories can have wonderful illustrations for example in Little Whale by Jo Weaver, or something like an ABC book can make for a beautiful made book like Animalphabet by Julia Donaldson and Sharon King-Chai. The display will also include books like the poignant Alone by Chabou te and the intricately drawn Belonging by Jeannie Baker.

See you in the library soon,

*Miles*

### What's on at Elmswell Library?

#### Story Time

1.10pm – 1.30pm every Tuesday

#### The Keep in Touch Community Caf 

10.30am on Wednesday 20th March at the Wesley Caf  (every 3rd Wednesday)

#### Knit and Natter

1.30pm – 2.30pm Tuesday 12th April (every 2nd Tuesday)

#### Adult Reading Practice

Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please book in advance.

#### Sunday Crafts

1pm – 2pm every Sunday

#### Lego Club

Every Sunday 11am – 12noon

#### Elf AGM

5.30pm Wednesday 27th April

#### Opening times

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm  
Wednesday: 2pm – 5pm  
Thursday: 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm  
Friday: 2pm – 5pm  
Saturday: 10am – 1pm  
Sunday: 10am – 3pm



## CITIZENS ADVICE

**I love live music and now that restrictions have lifted, I'm keen to start going to events again.**

**I've booked tickets for some gigs over the next few months, but I'm still a little worried.**

**I can't quite believe things are fully back to normal. What will happen if restrictions come back in?**

It's understandable to be feeling apprehensive when there's been so much change, and knowing your rights will help you deal with anything unexpected.

If you've got tickets to an event which goes ahead, but you change your mind about going or realise you're no longer able to go, you have no legal right to a refund. However, if the event is cancelled, your right to a refund will depend on how you bought the ticket.

If you booked through an official seller and the organiser cancels, moves, reschedules, or makes the event behind closed doors, you should get a refund. This is true even if it's cancelled due to a government ban on large events. If this happens, contact the official seller to find out how you can get a refund.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on **01449 676060** or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us).

**For more information and our opening hours go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk)**

If you bought your ticket from a ticket-reselling website, your refund will depend on the site's terms and conditions. If you're worried about the event being cancelled, it's a good idea to look at the terms and conditions before booking.

If you bought from a private seller, unfortunately it's unlikely you'll be able to recover your money, even if the event is cancelled or rescheduled. We recommend contacting the seller to see what they can do.

Ahead of any events you've booked, keep checking the information from the official seller or organiser to make sure you know straight away about any updates, like changes to the date or cancellations.

Another thing to be aware of is that scammers exploit these situations for their own benefit. If your event is cancelled and anyone - whether it's a person or a company - offers their services to try to recover money on your behalf, be suspicious. Make sure that you're aware of the signs of a potential scam and always be on the lookout.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk can provide advice on this or any other issue, including debt, employment, benefits and family law. You can contact them on 01449 676060 or use the contact form at [midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk/contact-us). For more information and our opening hours go to [midsuffolkcab.org.uk](https://midsuffolkcab.org.uk).

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# ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB



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### FIRST TEAM REPORT

Our first game in March was a tough one as a depleted Elmswell side faced promotion hopefuls, Melton United. Elmswell struggled to find any fluency and although we did have the odd break we couldn't build any lasting pressure. After two forced substitutions we found ourselves 4-0 down at half time. The second half was only slightly better and we grabbed a late consolation goal as MOTM Ben Humphrey superbly found Malin Davis' run, who finished with aplomb. Final score 1-7.

Next we travelled over to Saxmundham with several players missing. In a tight game we gave a good account of ourselves throughout the first half, pushing and probing the Sax defence, but came in 1-0 down at half time. We created more chances second half but couldn't quite find the finishing touch. The lads kept fighting and pushing for the equaliser with great spirit but a second mistake let Sax in again for a 2-0 win. Steven Reid was MOTM in goal with some outstanding saves.

Another distant away game as we went to top of the table Woolverstone and gave them a bit of a scare. We started brightly, with a great work ethic that started from the front line's harrying and closing down. Matt Last put us ahead and we had a couple of other good chances to extend our lead before Woolverstone punished a couple of defensive mistakes. Romaine Scott along with midfield duo Will Gudgeon and Josh Daly were impressive in the middle ensuring that Woolverstone didn't have the easy ride they seemed to be expecting. At half time the message was to keep doing what we'd been doing, as we were more than holding our own. Despite having a few subs this week, we did run out of legs in the second half. Still, we created some more gilt-edged chances that we couldn't convert while gifting a couple more goals. So, much like last week, the final score didn't really reflect the game or our performance. But we have to pick ourselves up and look to iron out those mistakes next week against second placed Cockfield (away).

In April we have 3 home games at The Blackbourne - Ufford Sports 02/04, Melton Utd 09/04 and Kirton Athletic 16/04.

The Reserves have not had a game this month. Hopefully they can tell you about their last game next issue. UP THE ELM.



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## ELMSWELL FOX BOWLS CLUB

Team captains are busy planning their campaigns for 2022 having their fixtures and team members all to hand. We have several new members but we don't, as yet, know who is available when. Numerically, we could field another team but, since we don't yet know who is working and who is retired, we couldn't apply for any. Next year we most likely will. Unfortunately, some completed signing-on forms went astray, ask me not how, and have to be re-issued. That's delegation for you.

Work is progressing on the green in readiness for our Opening on Saturday,

April 9th, not far away now, but plenty of time for the weather to turn nasty, as it always does! Our Grand Open Day is on Sunday, May 1st when all league clubs will throw open their doors. Anyone interested in joining our club, trying out the game, or just fancying a roll-up, could do worse than coming along to either, (or both) -start time 2 pm – or contacting any committee member.

- Barry Hayward, 01359 240951
- Rob Dann 07917 013846
- Dick Burch 01359 240105

Our photos are from the archives, there not being much happening just now, so we have the friendly vs the Parish Council and a visit to Coney Weston, both from 2018. How time flies! Next month I should have lots of new faces to show you from our opening day, weather permitting, of course.

Peter Edmonds  
 E.F.B.C. 07860 395720  
 edmondspeterj@gmail.com



## WESLEY UKULELE BAND

Just like the rest of the free world, we are keen to do our bit for the brave people of Ukraine and so we are performing a benefit for them at the Elmswell Tavern on Easter Saturday starting at 7pm. Posters will be appearing at any moment and collection buckets will be available on the night. Obviously, donations are totally voluntary but it is hoped that many people will take the opportunity of expressing their admiration for Ukraine and have a enjoyable time as well!

Meanwhile, our Thursday morning practice sessions carry on at the Wesley as does the Folk session with Paddy and Bob on the 3rd Wednesday every month starting at 11am.

We were delighted to make the front cover last month but, in case you thought it was easy, have a look at the pictures above...

Steve, Carol P, Carol D, and Maggie trying to out-Beatle Carol, Steve, Keith aka Elvis, and David. A difficult one for the judges, which one to throw out first!

If you have musical aspirations then this is probably not the group for you, but if you fancy havind a go in fun company then maybe you should give us a try. Our Kevin can sort you out or tell you what gigs we have planned.

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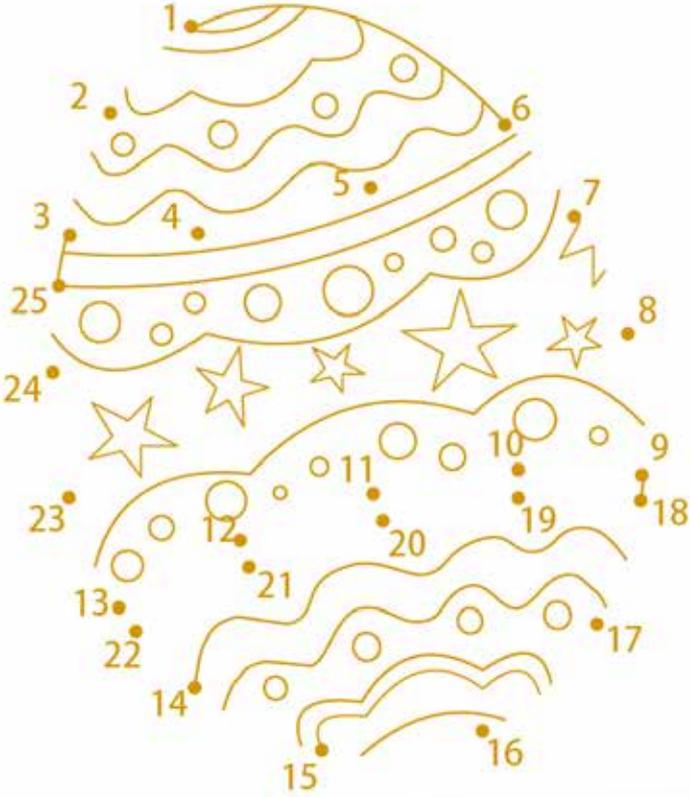
Elmswell's monthly footpath walks take in footpaths around and about the village...4 miles maximum – easy walking, everyone welcome, dogs on leads please .

All walks start from the village sign on Crown Mill.



# EASTER FUN

## Easter Egg Dot To Dot!



## Easter Masks!



Using paper plates, paint, scissors and lollipop sticks create your very own bunny rabbit mask!

Carefully cut out your eyes and ears and use craft materials around your home for the nose and whiskers!

You could even wear these for your own easter egg hunt!

## Easter Egg Hunt!

What goes broom and travels far? Your first egg is by the car!

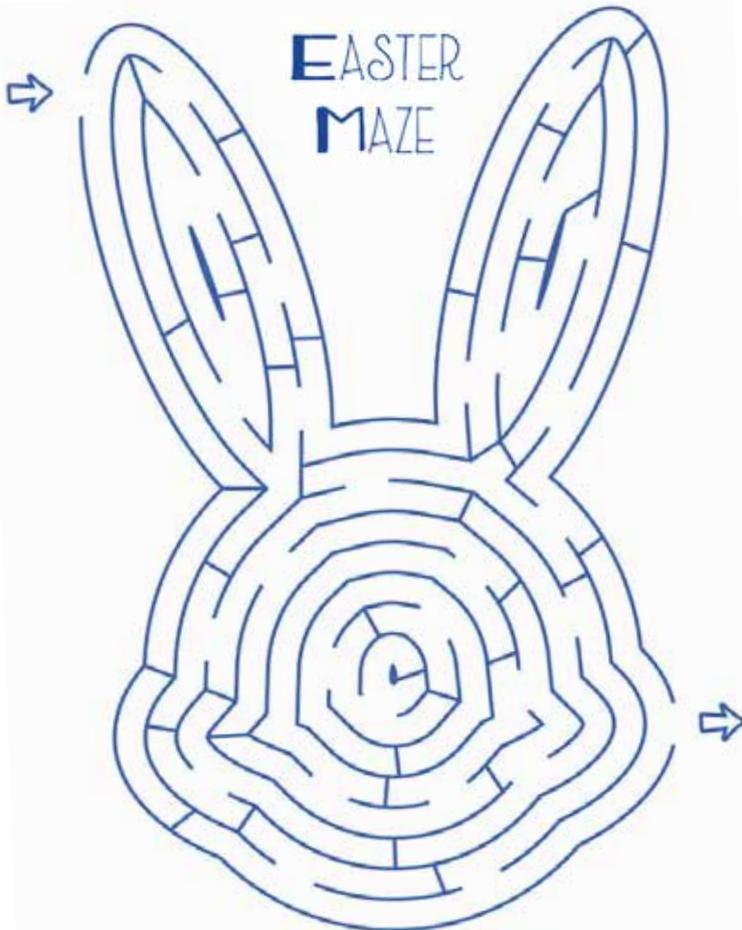
Where the tooth fairy leaves a pound, is where your next egg will be found

We hope it's not spinning round, your next clue is where bubbles are found

It's been a long hunt, you need a rest, go lay down by my bed!

The next egg is inside, somewhere that a dog may hide!

The final egg is by the door, check below on the floor!



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# WELL DONE ELMSWELL!



## WELL DONE ELMSWELL

On behalf of our son Roland otherwise known as Roly by his friends and work colleagues Ann and I along with our immediate family would like to thank everyone from Elmswell who donated clothing food and other essentials to us for his Ukrainian Appeal, for a few days our home was like a warehouse, in two weeks enough goods were donated from all over Suffolk to fill four lorries with aid items with another three maybe four to follow. It was a tremendous response by everybody.

Roland set off on Sunday 13th March from his company A & R Haulage's depot in Risby leading a convoy of four lorries all double manned, bound for a Romanian Red Cross centre at Corina Dorreanu. They arrived on Wednesday 16th March after a 1750 mile journey all safe, very tired but in good spirits; they were taken to a refugee centre to meet some of the recipients of the aid they had delivered and after a nights rest they began their return journey arriving back in the UK over the w/e 19/21 March.

Elmswell can be proud of its response to the Ukrainian Appeal, I understand that a lorry load of items was sent from St John's church as well as what was donated to us.

*Many thanks again  
From Ann & Dave Hollings*



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# PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT - March 2022

The March meeting of the Parish Council convened in the Chamberlayne Hall at Blackbourne on Monday 21st with 8 councillors present, together with the Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public.

This report is compiled from that meeting by the Parish Clerk and edited by the Council's Editorial Board which comprises the Council Chairman, the Council Vice-chairman and Cllr Sue Roots, elected by her peers to join them. It seeks to cover some of the more interesting or significant items thought to deserve wider public attention. Included, where appropriate, are matters reported to the meeting by external bodies such as the County and District Council Ward Members or as raised at the meeting by members of the public. Further background and reference to subsequent events are included where relevant. The various Annual Reports as tabled at the meeting are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Minutes of recent Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings, together with the agenda for the next meeting, when published, are available online at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud) and from the Parish Clerk by arrangement. Bound copies of older Minutes are lodged in the Village Archive at Blackbourne and with the Suffolk County Records Office in Bury St. Edmunds. The most recent Minutes from the February Ordinary meeting, as approved at this meeting, are posted in the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.

## Mid Suffolk District Council

Cllrs Sarah Mansel & Helen Geake tabled a written report on BMSDC activities which confirmed that Mid Suffolk Council discussed the budget for 2022/23 at the Council meeting held on 24th February. Council tax is to remain at the same rate, so the annual Mid Suffolk proportion of the council tax bill for a Band D property will be £171.59. Sheltered housing charges and garage rents also remain frozen at 2021/22 levels. The Administration agreed on the Opposition proposal to fund two electric bus services to enable residents to get to and from Stowmarket in a sustainable manner. The funding for this project will be from the Growth and Efficiency Fund. However, Mid Suffolk District Council tenants face a proposed increase of 4.1% to their rents, to cover inflationary pressures and allow investment in improving the quality of council homes. This means average weekly social rent increase by £3.45 from £84.42 to £87.84. For affordable housing, weekly rents increase by £4.99 from £121.34 to £126.33. The report confirmed that, following the departure of Cllr Wendy Turner, there had been a by-election for a new district councillor for the Thurston Ward. Green party candidate Austin Davies gained more than double the number of votes for the Conservative candidate and was duly elected. MSDC remains balanced with 17 members in each of the two groups.

Meanwhile, Babergh and Mid Suffolk are reducing their office space in Endeavour House. Following COVID there is now more hybrid working and less space is needed so the space will be reconfigured at a cost of about £250,000 but should provide longer term net savings in the region of £675,000 over the next 5 years. This decision was made by Cabinets of both Councils. The new configuration should be in place in Autumn 2022.

It was noted that MSDC received the keys to 9 new affordable homes in Botesdale in February. These new homes are part of the current investment programme which included 68 new homes in the pipeline for this year in Needham Market, Haughley and Woolpit.

## Suffolk County Council

Ward Member Cllr Andy Mellen tabled a written report confirming that Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. The opposition group had a major influence in providing recommendations to SCC which are now a part of the Council's ambitions to enhance biodiversity. Examples include planting more hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions.

He reported that County Councillors met on the 17th of February to debate and vote on the Council's budget for 2022-23. Suffolk Green, Liberal and Independent Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce

the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives.

He detailed a scheme known as Warmer Homes Suffolk whereby Suffolk residents who are struggling to keep their homes warm can make contact with the new project which offers funding and free advice. The website has details at [www.warmerhomesuffolk.org](http://www.warmerhomesuffolk.org).

## Planning results

The Meeting noted the following results of Planning applications made to Mid Suffolk, the Planning Authority:

DC/18/02146 Erection of up to 86 dwellings... Land to the North and West of School Road GRANTED EPC objected

The Meeting agreed that the Clerk should pursue the discrepancy between the original agreement, as minuted, that work on the problematic School Road / Church Road junction should be agreed and carried out prior to any development commencing on site, and the published Permission which allows half of the 86 dwelling development to be completed prior to the highways mitigation measures being in place. DC/22/00212 Erection of single storey side extension at Folly Cottage, Rose Lane GRANTED EPC supported

## Planning applications

The Meeting considered in detail 2 applications forwarded from Mid Suffolk for comment: DC/21/06333 Development of a petrol filling station, a drive-thru restaurant and coffee shop, together with various infrastructure and landscaping works on Land off A14 Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons;

1. The site is too small to accommodate the facilities it proposes to offer. The 'drive-through' element of the fast food provision is subverted by the recent proposal for an increase in EV charging points when the 'Future Transport Hub' will 'cater for motorists who need to wait to charge their cars'. They will not be driving through, they will be parked on site. Again, the Applicant suggests that the proposal is a 'valuable community asset' for local residents who do not have EV charging facilities at home and that, 'given the location of the site we recognise that the demand from motorists is likely to be high'. EPC considers that this demand will be too high to be safely accommodated on this very cramped site. It is impractical to suggest that, merely by not signing the facility for HGV use, this will mean that large lorries will not pull in for refreshment and comfort breaks. On a single hectare of land this proposal cannot work without serious overloading and congestion to the detriment of circulation around the site which has implications for access from an extremely busy roundabout. After an initial rejection of the concept SCC Highways have suggested remediation

measures which in no way address the safety issues posed by the overdevelopment.

2. NPPF paragraph 112 states that applications for development should create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, The application signally fails to satisfy this requirement. The Transport Assessment relies upon the 'understanding' that this application will benefit from the 'proposed' Elmswell-Woolpit footway/cycle link (Community Path)'. This aspirational scheme is uncosted and remains as an extremely problematic project meaning it would, if progressed, be something to be delivered many years hence. It has no relevance in mitigating the harm that this application proposes and it is disingenuous to suggest otherwise.

3. The Applicant's own Assessment is for 224 extra vehicles per hour at the roundabout during peak periods and accepts that the traffic load would exceed capacity on the west-bound slip junction. Given the failure to take into account the local developments since the TA was commissioned including the new HGV-based businesses at Lawn Farm Business Park (Bacton Transport / Precon Products), the substantial and growing number of houses at both Woolpit and Elmswell and the outline Planning permission for a new primary school serving both Woolpit and Elmswell, the Assessment in no way serves to reflect the true position with regard to highway safety.

Included in the developments which have secured Planning permission in the interim is the requirement for a roundabout at Woolpit immediately off A14 to serve the large housing estate and primary school. This impediments to traffic flows need to be taken into account when assessing this proposal. Any such assessment would find the scheme wanting to such an extent that it should fall.

DC/22/00929 Change of use and conversion of single garage into living accommodation for B&B or longer term rental Wisteria, New Road Councillors objected to this application for the following reasons;

1. The proposal seeks a contrived result, awkwardly situated and creating residential accommodation out of keeping with the neighbouring properties and at risk of establishing precedents for inappropriate expansion as a separate curtilage.

The vehicular access from New Road into the Proposal site is 2.2m wide at its narrowest point. The acceptable minimum is 3.3m. The access barely accommodates cars at the smaller end of the domestic car market. As has been the case for several years, this access is too problematic for normal use and the incumbent at the host dwellin has to park vehicles at the kerbside. It is disingenuous for

the applicant to demonstrate in the submission 3 vehicles parked to the rear of the main house. New Road is a major pinch-point in the village road network. It serves as one arm of the advisory HGV route taking the considerable traffic load from north of the railway to access A14. Effectively this often, therefore, becomes a single-track road where parked cars are a material hazard creating chicanes throughout its length, including a section with no pavement.

2. The Application site lies just to the south of an extremely dangerous 3-way junction where The Street meets Cooks Road and New Road. This is the site of frequent accidents, including some 9 weeks ago when the fence of The Willows was, again, demolished by traffic. It would be dangerous and foolhardy to encourage further on-street parking by permitting this development.

#### Council Administration Review

The Meeting received a report from the CEO of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) who had carried out a review of the administrative framework of the Council office and advised on changes in light of the recent much increased workload including split-site working between Wesley and Blackbourne, the management of the Elmswell Tavern and the pressure of general day-to-day administration given the ever-increasing population. The SALC recommendations were unanimously agreed and the posts of Clerk and Assistant Clerk are upwardly upgraded with a new post of Clerical Assistant created. At the same time, the post of Weekend Caretaker was filled with the stated aim of the new post-holder assuming a full-time role when the present incumbent retires in August.

#### Recycling volunteers

Council has run a very successful scheme over many years whereby village groups take on the stewardship of the village's recycling centre at Station Road for a three month period. The Trefoil Guild were thanked for their excellent stewardship up to 25th February and a grant of £150.00 was made to the Guild's funds.

#### Clerk's Report

The monthly report from the Clerk's office included the following items for information:

#### NEW SCHOOL SITE

The next planned on-line session to take further EPC's initiative to identify possible sites for expanded primary school provision in Elmswell was held on 8th March. I was able to confirm that the sites which make up a possible 9 acre site at School Road, accessed from Church Road, can be the subject of further discussion with SCC and MSDC. The Mid Suffolk land is possibly constrained as having been dedicated to the Housing Revenue Account.

Meanwhile SCC have met with the developer who proposes a possible 170 dwelling site appended as an extension to their current site at Wetherden Road, effectively infilling back to the railway line. There was discussion regarding the desirability, if 2 sites are a SCC favoured option, of having one either side of the railway crossing by considering the JLP allocation site LA066 adjacent to St Edmund's Drive. The next meeting will include a Mid Suffolk Planning officer. In the meantime various of the options will be explored further by individuals towards clarifying feasibility and further meeting will be called within 4 weeks.

#### ELMSWELL TAVERN

The Elmswell Tavern opened under Council management on 4th March following a frenetic and very successful volunteer exercise to create a more welcoming aspect. Within 3 days there was a till / card machine system up and running, VCR cameras installed, complete start-up stock in place and many other necessary elements of management and day-to-day operation ready for a comfortably full opening evening since when the pub has traded above expectations. In the process, various unusual financial arrangements were made and the schedule of Clerk's expenditure shows payments to '3' for a 4G hub, to Greene King for the opening stock and to other set-up costs to volunteers. All are properly accounted for with complete paper trails as appropriate. We are now set up with the various accounts and there should be little need for such extra-ordinary arrangements. The lessons learned in this whole process, the practical experience gained and the direct community feedback will be of considerable benefit as those involved refine the concept towards a final blue-print. Meanwhile, the draft Prospectus and Business Plan which will inform the Share Issue bid process are being refined following first-pass response from the Assessor. As soon as an issue date can be reliably predicted this will be widely publicised.

#### PLANNING AT WARREN LANE

I attended the Mid Suffolk Planning meeting on 9th March to make known Council's continued objection to the Application ref. DC/21/02956 for 44 houses to the east of Warren Lane. This had been deferred when a previous meeting was made aware by EPC and others of the encroaching activities at Lawn Farm Quarry which is set to expand towards the village. There was permission granted in 2018 for part of the site, within the Development Envelope, for 38 dwellings. This application seeks, effectively, to extend the site by another 1.02ha (2½ acres) into the countryside, outside the settlement boundary and beyond any Plan designation for development. In broad terms, Elmswell stands to lose a couple of acres of farmland and countryside amenity in exchange

for 6 more houses. I have appended to this report the presentation which I made to MSDC Members stressing these points. The decision is deferred yet again for a site meeting.

I have, with the Chairman's agreement, asked Jo Churchill MP to help prevent an Approval which would serve the village ill in all regards and which, in my reading of the relevant Planning policies, guidance and documents, would be very defensible on Appeal.

#### PLATINUM JUBILEE

On 14th March I held the last meeting necessary towards co-ordinating activities on Sunday 5th June marking the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. We will be publicising the Blackbourne Beach Picnic with sand, entertainment, pony rides etc, open to all free of charge as well as offering advice and help, in conjunction with MSDC, for individual street parties on the day.

#### ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING

I have met with Anglia Car Charging, the new partner with SCC's Plug In Suffolk scheme, and finalised details for the provision of EV charging points at Wesley, as provided for in the original infrastructure design. I have secured a grant of some £13,000 which covers this work and am working towards the same at Blackbourne where the necessary cabling was installed during the recent extension works.

#### COMMUNITY PATH

I met on line with District & County Council officers, including Ward Members, on 28th February to discuss the way forward for the long-standing proposal for a Community Path linking Elmswell and Woolpit to serve pedestrians and cyclists. This followed a 'walking of the route' which had been held on 25th January to which neither EPC or Woolpit had been party. It was clear that there is a serious lack of appreciation of the previous work on the project including with SUSTRANS, most recently including EPC and Cllr Mansel. The resulting conclusions are, therefore, somewhat short in terms of reality. Another meeting is mooted to include SUSTRANS and taking on board previous work and the conclusions thus reached.

#### Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 19th April, avoiding the Bank Holiday, beginning at 7.30pm at Blackbourne. The public are, as ever, welcome to attend all Council and Council Committee meetings and the agendas will always offer opportunities for questions and comment. Agendas are published online at [elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://elmswell.suffolk.cloud) and on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill.



#### Future Council Meetings

Notice of all meetings and agendas is posted on the Council's notice board at Crown Mill and in the community notice board at the Co-op.

Apr 19th	May 16th	June 20th	July 18th	Sept 19th
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Meetings are held at Blackbourne, beginning at 7.30 unless otherwise notified

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access.

Staffed Mondays – Thursdays 9.00am – 12.00 noon and at other times by arrangement

[clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)

Tel. 244134 [www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.cloud)



# VILLAGE INDEX

Useful contacts for community groups & others...feedback is essential.

Do be in touch to correct or add details or to suggest someone else deserving of listing.

Amenities Association	Jean Barker (Sec)	eea@elmswell.org.uk	241135
Art Club	John Welford	welford955@btinternet.com	240166
Baby & Toddler Group	Donna Hughes	elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com	
Baptists	Dave Hollings	davehollings@btinternet.com	241323
Beavers	Ruth Salmon	ruthcourt4@hotmail.co.uk	
BWMA	Peter Edmonds (Sec)	edmondspeterj@gmail.com	241640
Blackbourne – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Brownies & Rainbows	Gemma Sutton	elmswellbrownies@hotmail.com	
CAB		advice@midsuffolkcab.org.uk	01449 676060
Carpet Bowls Club	Frank Boxall	jf.boxall@btinternet.com	
Christians Together in Elmswell	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	
Community Speed Watch	Marie Spampinato	mariespampinato@hotmail.co.uk	07769 715209
Companions	Linda Waspe	linda@labbott.plus.com	
County Councillor	Cllr Andy Mellen	Andy.Mellen@ suffolk.gov.uk	
Cricket Club	Eileen Brooks (Sec.)	elmswellcricketclub@gmail.com	
Cubs	Ben Savill	hovells23@hotmail.co.uk	
District Councillor	Sarah Mansell	Sarah.Mansel@midsuffolk.gov.uk	07860 829517
District Councillor	Helen Geake	Helen.geake@midsuffolk.gov.uk	
Elmswheelians	Trevor Sadler	trevor.sadler@dsl.pipex.com	240908
Elmswild	Mary Feeney	info@elmswild.org.uk	241901
Exchange afternoon WI	Maureen Davis	modavis6@gmail.com	
Exchange Club	Carol Blissett	carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk	
First Responders	Merv	merv.smith@tiscali.co.uk	07909 006 496
Football	Shaun Pratt	shaun.pratt@btinternet.com	07494 864 231
Fox Bowls Team bowls at Blackbourne	Barry Hayward	barryhayward1902@gmail.com	240951
Friends of St Johns	Jean Folkard	derekrf2@gmail.com	242099
Gardening Club	Nick Chamberlin	npch@btinternet.com	242601
Guides	Tammy	elmswellguides@outlook.com	
Health Centre - Woolpit			240298
History Group	Stella Chamberlin	stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk	
Ladies Voices (Choir)	Anna Wilton Mills	annawm63@gmail.com	
Library	Miles Row - Manager	Elmswell.Library@suffolklibraries.co.uk	240974
Little Elms	Melanie Garner	info@littleelms.co.uk	240491
Newsletter	Editorial office	eea@elmswell.org.uk	244134
Over 55's Club	Diann Armstrong	Mayfield, Wetherden Road	241002
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Police Emergencies			999
Police; non-emergencies	Mid Suffolk South SNT	headquarters@suffolk.pnn.police.uk	101
Poor's Land Charity	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Power cuts		Powwercut105.com	105
School	Mrs Ash	admin@elmswell.suffolk.sch.uk	240261
Scouts	Paula Hollings	ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk	07828 562485
St John's Church	Peter Goodridge	elmswellrector@gmail.com	240512
Sewing Bee	Isabel Burgess	isabel.burgess@live.com	
Village Tree Warden	c/o Parish Clerk	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
Wesley – all enquiries	Parish Council office	clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk	244134
WI - evening	Margaret Stevens	stevensmarg@tiscali.co.uk	408452
Youth Football	Chris Smyth	smyth98@hotmail.com	07717 841 591

Enquiries on any Parish Council matter are invited to the Clerk, Peter Dow, at The Council Office, Blackbourne, Blackbourne Road, IP30 9UH – right next to the car park and with wheelchair access. Staffed Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 4pm, Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am – 12 noon and at other times by arrangement. clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk Tel. 244134

**IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY THAT YOUR DETAILS APPEAR HERE,  
PLEASE DO BE IN TOUCH VIA eea @elmswell.org.uk**

# What's On in Elmswell ?



To be included in our events diary make sure you send separate notification of your announcement.

For a full year's calendar of what's booked at Blackbourne, please go to the Parish Council website at [www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk) - it might help you in planning dates for your events.

## April 2022

- 4 Ladies Friendship Group meet at 2pm in the Blackbourne Car Park for a visit from the Bus Shelter in Ipswich with Gareth Brenland. Back to the chapel afterwards for coffee, cake and a chat.
- 7 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 7 Over 55's club Cash Bingo
- 12 Elmswell WI, 7.30 at The Wesley - Annual meeting
- 14 Elmswell History Group 22nd Anniversary meeting, 7.30 at Wesley. Speaker Clare Gapper: Decorative Plasterwork in Elizabethan & Jacobean Suffolk
- 16 Community Café at Wesley Coffee Shop 10.30am
- 19 Elmswell Garden Club 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall. Chris Reeve 'A Gardeners Year at Helmingham'

- 21 Over 55's club Him and Her 50,s 60,s music etc Visitors pay on the door from 7.00pm
- 27 ELF AGM in the Elmswell Library commencing 5:30pm. All welcome

## May 2022

- 5 Over 55.s club AGM followed by Bingo
- 9 2pm Ladies Friendship Group at Elmswell Baptist Church - the Life of an Auctioneer with Bishop & Miller
- 10 Elmswell WI, 7.30 - Tour of Woolpit Nursery, bring your own tea/coffee
- 12 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 12 Elmswell History Group, 7.30pm; 7.30 at Wesley. Speaker Christopher Parkinson: History of East Anglia's Stained Glass Windows
- 17 Elmswell Garden Club 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall Melanie from Mickfield Hostas - 'Hostas'

- 19 Over 55's club Fever Pitch return well worth joining us small admission charge

## June 2022

- 2 Over 55's club Platinum Celebrations
- 6 2pm Ladies Friendship Group - Tour of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral - men welcome as well
- 9 Elmswell History Group 2021-22 AGM at 7pm, at Wesley. - immediately followed at 7.30pm by Speaker Jacquie Norman: Tudor Costume in the time of Henry VIII
- 9 Food 'n' Friends at Elmswell Baptist Church midday
- 14 Elmswell WI, 7.30 at The Wesley, Burlesque, Me and the WI, Lindsay Barrel
- 16 Over 55's Club Outing details later
- 21 Elmswell Garden Club 7.30pm at the Wesley Hall Chris Dale - Sweet Peas

## STOP PRESS

Back in action at both Blackbourne & Wesley and hoping to stay that way, we have:

**FITNESS** - Sarah Evans' classes include stretch-and-flex, spin, boxercise, legs bums & tums, bodyblast....throughout the week and at weekends contact [sarahjane.fitness@outlook.com](mailto:sarahjane.fitness@outlook.com)

**KARATE** with Lewis - Tuesday 4.30 - 5.45 / Friday 5.00 - 7.00 [info@greathheadma.com](mailto:info@greathheadma.com)

**JAPANESE JUJUTSU / SELF DEFENCE** - Monday & Wednesday 6.30 - 8.30 [ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com](mailto:ryoishintowaryuheiho@gmail.com) tel. 07711 680262

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** - Monday mornings [elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellbtgroup@gmail.com)

**BOWLS** - [barryhayward1902@gmail.com](mailto:barryhayward1902@gmail.com) tel. 240951

**GUIDES** - Monday evenings 5.00 - 8.30 [gem\\_2910@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gem_2910@hotmail.co.uk)

**FOOTBALL** - [shaun.pratt@btinternet.com](mailto:shaun.pratt@btinternet.com) 07494 864231

**RAINBOWS** - [elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com](mailto:elmswellrainbows@yahoo.com)

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL** - [smyth98@hotmail.com](mailto:smyth98@hotmail.com) 07717 841591

**CUBS** Tuesdays 6.15 - 7.30 [claremariekeefe@gmail.com](mailto:claremariekeefe@gmail.com)

**BEAVERS /SCOUTS** - Wednesday 5.45 - 9.15 [ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk](mailto:ddc.paula@stowmarketscouts.org.uk)

**OVER 55'S** - every other Thursday 6.30 - 10.30 Diann Armstrong tel. 241002

**CIRCLE DANCING** - Thursdays 1.45 - 3.15 [jenlerner@gmail.com](mailto:jenlerner@gmail.com)

**TREFOIL GUILD** - 1st Tuesday monthly [lesley.grout@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.grout@btinternet.com)

**MARDLE QUILTERS** - last Friday monthly [carpajak@aol.com](mailto:carpajak@aol.com)

**MOO MUSIC** - Fridays 12.45 - 3.15 [bury@moo-music.co.uk](mailto:bury@moo-music.co.uk)

**WI** - evening at Wesley 2nd Tuesday monthly 7.30pm Terry Byford [bbazby@aol.com](mailto:bbazby@aol.com)

**WI** - afternoon at Wesley 1st Wednesday monthly Carol Blissett [carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolblissett@hotmail.co.uk)

**ART CLUB** at Wesley every Tuesday 9.00 - 12,00 John Welford [welford955@btinternet.com](mailto:welford955@btinternet.com)

**HISTORY GROUP** at Wesley 2nd Thursday monthly 7.30 [stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stellachamberlin@yahoo.co.uk)

**GARDEN CLUB** at Wesley 3rd Tuesday monthly 7.30 [elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:elmswellgardenclub@gmail.com)

**CARPET BOWLS** - Wednesday 7. pm at Wesley - [jf.boxall@btinternet.com](mailto:jf.boxall@btinternet.com)

**COMPANIONS** - every other Friday 10 - 12 at Wesley - [linda@abbott.plus.com](mailto:linda@abbott.plus.com)

**PILATES** - Monday & Friday mornings - [suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk](http://suzanne@triformpilates.co.uk)

**BINGO** - Blackbourne, last Friday monthly doors open 6.30...eyes-down 7.30

If we've missed you out, do let us know...all enquiries to Ann at the Council Office Tel. 244134 Email [clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elmswell.suffolk.gov.uk)

## Your Newsletter Fact File

For the next 3 months we need copy by: April 26th, May 24th, June 21st

Contact us on **01359 244 134** for all Amenities Association business, Newsletter and adverts.

Our new email address is [EAA@elmswell.org.uk](mailto:EAA@elmswell.org.uk) Your editors: Jean Barker, Maggie Bushell, Peter Dow

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